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1  
on critical Days

I have said all ~~for~~ diseases have their dimissions  
or intermissions. This is more evidently the  
case with fevers. They are said to terminate  
on certain days <sup>by means of paroxysms</sup> which have been called Criti-  
cal. <sup>These days were first observed</sup> ~~They were observed~~ in the mild & thin-  
-form climate of Greece, and ~~they~~ Hippocrates  
has left an account of them. ~~They~~ were  
easily discerned in his practice, for he never  
disturbed the operations of nature; But in  
spite of the changes which climate ~~induces~~  
- ~~is on fevers~~, and Artificial modes of  
- <sup>induces on fevers, Crises</sup> ~~care~~ they are still to be seen, more especially  
in the <sup>fevers</sup> ~~diseases~~ of this country.

I have said Dr Senac has <sup>supposed</sup> ~~found~~ the tertian  
to be the primary & original form of fever.  
Continual fevers begin with this form &  
retain it ~~to the~~ on the 3. 5. 7. 9. 11. days.



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after which they lose <sup>2</sup> it, & proceed in the  
Quartan form to the 14. 17. & 20. — After  
the 20<sup>th</sup> it is said they terminate on the  
27, 35, & 42<sup>nd</sup> days — but of these septenary  
periods, I believe there are no proofs.

The bilious fever in all its grades cer-  
tainly observes a regard to the critical days  
that have been mentioned. That the yellow  
fever ~~is~~ in this city generally terminated  
on a tertian day — that is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup>  
under all the modes of its treatment.  
It conformed with the same regularity  
to those days in Virginia in 1741 according  
to Desmarchell, nor should ~~we~~ we reject  
critical days because these fevers occasionally  
terminate on even days: for the Crisis as Dr Jackson  
has judiciously observed, often terminates  
on a critical <sup>or odd</sup> day, when death, or a  
favourable Crisis does not occur till the  
next day or <sup>the</sup> even day. In the former



V Again - ~~but~~ Of 280 cases of fever <sup>ch.</sup> w.

Dr Wm Brown attended in the Infirmary  
of Edin<sup>2</sup> 70 of them terminated on critical  
days, which is more than  $1/2$  - ~~but~~  
Hippocrates says  $2/3$ <sup>d</sup> of 163 terminated on  
critical days. This difference in the proportion  
of crises <sup>in the latter instance</sup> arises from the uniform character  
imposed upon fevers by the climate of Greece,  
and from Hippocrates not interrupting the  
operations of nature. Dr Hoffman who practised =

~~The whole course of a fever has been~~  
~~compared to the annual revolution of the earth.~~  
~~Daily paroxysms to the earth's diurnal~~  
~~revolutions.~~ Dr Hoffman who practised =  
~~Dr Astruc says of 24 patients~~



Case the time of dying is only protracted,  
and in the latter, the recovery is often un-  
perceptible from the extreme debility left  
by the fever. —

Out of 60 continual fevers Dr Jackson  
tells us in his Acc<sup>t</sup> of the Diseases of Lar-  
-væ, 10 terminated on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day,  
10 on the 5<sup>th</sup>, — 20 on the 7<sup>th</sup>, — 10 on the  
9<sup>th</sup>, 5 on the 11<sup>th</sup>, and 2, on the 17<sup>th</sup> — in  
all 47 ended on critical days, & all of  
them, except One, ended favourably. On  
even days, or days not critical 3 termi-  
nated on the 13<sup>th</sup>, 1 on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 6 on the  
8<sup>th</sup> & 1 on the 10<sup>th</sup> all of which ended  
(11 in number)

in death. By the remaining two nothing is said.

V From all these facts, there is evidently  
a foundation for a belief in <sup>the</sup> critical  
days of Hippocrates. The present modes



~~that died under his care  
<sup>1</sup> attended in + pleurisy & died on the  
 4<sup>th</sup>: 3 on the 5<sup>th</sup>: 3 on the 8<sup>th</sup>: 2 on the  
 10<sup>th</sup>: 1 on the 14<sup>th</sup>: & 2 on the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup>:  
 Deducting the two doubtful ones - 7 only  
 Died on ~~and~~ even~~

~~is not~~  
= in a Northern Climate observed the following  
issue in certain fevers which he has named.  
An ephimera he says terminates on in 24  
hours. A typhus fever in 4 or 7 days. A mild  
pneumony on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. A severe Pneumony on the 7<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> and frequently in  
Sweet corn Diarrhoea an eruption. A 2<sup>d</sup>  
= putrid - on the 7. 11. or 14<sup>th</sup> & generally in  
by the sweats or a Diarrhoea. Ardent fevers  
in 17. or 14 days. The plague on the 4. 7. 11<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>  
& the putrid state of fever on the 7. 11. & 14<sup>th</sup> days.  
= signs of the crisis of a fever =

14<sup>th</sup> Says.  
The usual signs of the crisis of a fever =  
are / ~~sweats diffused equally over the whole~~



of practice in fever<sup>4</sup> which consists in destroy-  
ing the operations of nature as much as  
possible in them, has led to treat them  
with too much neglect. <sup>4</sup> But several  
important advantages may be derived  
from an attention to them.

1 In continual fever or protracted  
febriles (for such are all continued fevers)  
where the remissions are not observable, or  
not attended to, the presumption is that  
the fever will be in greater force (to use a  
military phrase) on a critical day, than  
on any other. This force may be internal,  
or ~~centrif~~ centripetal, and tho' not attended  
with signs of violence to the system, may  
do immense mischief to the viscera.

— On these days then evacuations  
~~particularly~~ ~~but~~ ~~it~~ ~~should~~ ~~be~~ ~~used~~  
should be used



V When they do not, the more feeble ~~op~~  
exacerbations may be assisted by Remedies  
calculated to produce a Crisis, or to weaken

a disease - particularly Sweating. 2. By atten=  
ding to the days on which fevers remit, we may give purges  
with more advantage.

= will be mentioned under the head of the  
Prognosis. I shall only remark here that  
fevers sometimes terminate without any  
perceptible evacuations of any kind from  
the body. Dr Sydenham describes this to the  
morbific matter which produces fevers being so  
assimilated with the healthy fluids as to destroy  
its activity. But this <sup>is not</sup> ~~cannot~~ be the case. The  
discharges which take place ~~in~~ <sup>at</sup> the Crisis of  
fevers are ~~not~~ neither acid, nor morbid. They  
are the effects of a general relaxation of the system  
by the restoration of healthy action in all its parts.  
~~The absence of these discharges arises the~~







— apparent absence of those discharges arises from their being conveyed out of the system so slowly as to escape observation. Such fevers are said to taper off. When they terminate on a critical day, they are said to snap off.

But a crisis does not always follow general sweats nor a sediment in the urine. Morgagni describes a fever in which general, & easy sweats ushered in death, & his Dr. Pringle says he saw Cases of Camp fever in which death followed a sediment in the urine.



6  
5 By attending to the Days on which fumes  
are most commonly terminate, we may  
keep up the hopes & confidence of our pa-  
-tients, ~~for~~ and establish our Character  
for judgement by predicting the day in  
which they will recover. These days alter  
with the Season. For Aug: <sup>if they are</sup> on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sep: in  
3, 45. October 5, <sup>th</sup> ~~on~~ our Climate, <sup>in</sup> ~~in~~ <sup>the</sup> incubitious fumes in  
at. opinions & observa-

3, 25, October 5, 1762.

I <sup>formerly</sup> mentioned the opinions & observations of Dr Balguy on the influence of the full & change of the moon <sup>on fevers.</sup> He has proved that the fevers of Bengal ~~considered~~ are subject to exacerbations three days before, & three days after ~~the~~ those two periods of the moon. He proves further, that from the attacks & relapses of fevers occur at those periods, more frequently than at the intermediate periods. These <sup>phenomena</sup> ~~changes~~ were observed by Dr Lind in the Bengal fever of 1762. He ascribes them to



+ In our pathology I ascribed these attacks & exacerbations  
& relapses of fevers <sup>to</sup> the influence of light or darkness upon  
the body from presence or absence of the moon. Remedy of Air  
also. Active medicine should be given on

that day.

2 To guard more carefully against  
existing causes on the lunar days  
than on any others,

3 To guard more carefully against relapses  
on those days, than on the intermediate  
days. —

4 To give tonics, and preventives more  
liberally on days not lunar, than  
on lunar days - for debility is then  
favourable to their more successful exhibition.

¶ I am surprised at the opinion given by Dr  
Lind of the ~~int~~ cause of lunar influence upon  
fevers ~~when~~ after the fact ~~he~~ relates of the  
relapses that took place in ~~the~~ the fevers which  
he describes from an eclipse of the moon.  
See above +